In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

COMPLETE CLAIMS LISTING

1. (Currently amended) A method of manipulating an elongate member during a medical procedure, wherein a base comprising a stand and a module is coupled to the elongate member, the module comprising cyclical means for advancement and retraction of the elongate member, said cyclical means for advancement and retraction disposed upon said module, releaseably engaging the elongate member and coupled to one or more motors, the method comprising:

receiving input from a user to manipulate the elongate member in order to perform a medical procedure;

sending signals to advance the elongate member if the input directs advancement of the elongate member, wherein said signals direct a motor to drive said one or more cyclical means for advancement and retraction in a first direction thereby advancing the elongate member;

sending signals to retract the elongate member if the input directs retraction of the elongate member, wherein said signals to retract the elongate member direct a motor to drive said cyclical means for advancement and retraction in a second direction thereby retracting the elongate member; and

sending signals to rotate the elongate member if the input directs rotation of the elongate member, wherein the module comprises a first end and a second end, a first plane comprising a length and an axis extending along said length, wherein the module is coupled to said stand at said first and second ends thereby permitting rotation of said plane about said axis, the elongate member is coupled to said module substantially along said axis, and the signals to rotate the elongate member direct a motor to rotate the module about said axis, whereby the rotation of said module is substantially about the same axis as the axis of rotation of the elongate member.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is flexible or rigid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signals specify a speed that is proportional to movement of a pointing device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the input is received from a pointing device coupled to a computer system.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the signals to advance the elongate member direct a motor to rotate a wheel~~ said cyclical means for advancement and retraction of said elongate member comprises one or more wheels in contact with the elongate member.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said cyclical means for advancement and retraction of said elongate member comprises a gripper mechanism disposed at a first position and comprising the additional steps of:

engaging said elongate member by said gripper mechanism;

advancing or retracting the gripper mechanism and thereby said elongate member;

releasing said elongate member;

returning said gripper mechanism to said first position;

repeating the foregoing steps if desired.

~~the signals to retract the elongate member direct a motor to rotate a wheel in contact with the elongate member~~.

7. (Canceled.)

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manipulating one or more elongate members during one or more medical procedures, comprising:

a base comprising a stand and a module coupled to an elongate member, the module comprising cyclical means for advancement and retraction of said elongate member disposed upon said module and releaseably engaging the elongate member, said module comprising a first end and a second end, a first plane comprising a length and an axis extending along said length, wherein said first and second ends are coupled to said stand thereby permitting rotation of said plane about said axis, and wherein said elongate member is coupled to said module substantially along said axis;

a first motor coupled to the base that drives said cyclical means for advancement and retraction and thereby advances or retracts the elongate member along the axis during a medical procedure; and

a second motor coupled to the base that rotates the module, whereby the plane is rotated about ~~said~~ substantially the same axis in order to rotate said elongate member during a medical procedure.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the relative speed of first and second motors provides coordinated motion.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein ~~the first motor advances or retracts the elongate member by rotating~~ said cyclical means for advancement and retraction of said elongate member comprises one or more wheels ~~a wheel~~ in contact with the elongate member.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a biasing mechanism to bias the elongate member against the wheel.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a clip to retain the elongate member.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a computer system that receives user input to direct the first and second motors.

14-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said method of manipulating an elongate member during a medical procedure further comprises a mode of operation during which movement of said elongate members is of fine resolution.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said computer system further comprises means for directing fine resolution movement of said elongate member.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said cyclical means for advancing and retracting said elongate member comprises one or more gripper mechanisms releaseably engaging said elongate member, said cyclical means disposed at a first position and comprising reversible means to travel to a second position and to reengage said elongate member at said second position.